

Remarks

Applicants request a reconsideration of the present patent application in view of the above amendments and following remarks. No claims have been amended or added. Claims 40-48 have been cancelled. Therefore, claims 1-8, 10-13, 15-19, 38 and 39 are pending in the application.

In the present Office Action dated August 9, 2005, a restriction requirement was imposed. First, the Office Action states that claims 1-39 and 46-48 (Group I) and claims 40-45 (Group II) relate to distinct inventions. Since claims 9, 14 and 20-37 were cancelled in the response to the Office Action dated February 17, 2005 ("the previous Office Action"), Applicants submit that Group I includes claims 1-8, 10-13, 15-19, 38, 39 and 46-48.

Applicants hereby elect claims 1-8, 10-13, 15-19, 38, 39 and 46-48 (Group I). Therefore, Applicants have cancelled claims 40-45 (Group II) without prejudice or disclaimer and reserve the right to file a divisional or continuation application directed to the subject matter of the non-elected claims prior to the issuance of a patent on those claims elected for further prosecution at this time.

Second, the Examiner indicated that Group I includes two patentably distinct species. Specifically, the Examiner stated that claims 1-39 (Species I) are patentably distinct from claims 46-48 (Species II). As mentioned above, claims 9, 14 and 20-37 were cancelled in the response to the previous Office Action dated February 17, 2005, therefore Applicants submit that Species I includes claims 1-8, 10-13, 15-19, 38 and 39.

Applicants hereby elect pending claims 1-8, 10-13, 15-19, 38 and 39 (Species I) for further prosecution in this application. Therefore, Applicants have cancelled claims 46-48 (Species II) without prejudice or disclaimer and reserve the right to file a divisional or continuation application directed to the subject matter of the non-elected claims prior to the issuance of a patent on those claims elected for further prosecution at this time.

In the previous Office Action dated February 17, 2005, the Examiner indicated that claims 14 and 15 were objected to as being dependant upon a rejected base claim, but the Examiner stated that they would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Therefore, in the previous Office Action, claims 9 and 14 were cancelled, and claim 1 was rewritten to include all of the limitations of claims 9 and 14. Further, claim 15 was amended to depend from claim 1.

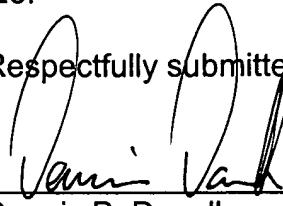
In view of the above, Applicants submit that claims 1-8, 10-13, 15-19, 38 and 39 are in condition for allowance and such allowance is respectfully requested. Should the Examiner feel that any unresolved issues remain in this case, the undersigned may be contacted at the telephone number listed below to arrange for an issue resolving conference.

Applicants do not believe that any fee is due at this time. However, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fee that may have been

overlooked to Deposit Account No. 10-0223.

Respectfully submitted,

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